

**Benjamin Stoddert to Thomas Jefferson, August 18,
1801, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital.
Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

Stoddert to Jefferson

Geo Town 18 August 1801.

Sir

Knowing that the Comrs of Washington were about addressing you on a subject in which I have an Interest, I sent to them a letter, the copy of which I take the liberty to lay before you; as I find they had made up their dispatches before the rest of the letter.

Mr White, the Comr alluded to as not Joining in the engagement to the State of Maryland, informs me, that I have misstated his motive for the refusal — that it was not the apprehension of pecuniary loss, but a doubt of the powers of the Comrs to pledge the lots to the State, which with-held him. — Be it so — my object was to prove some little merit, & no crime in those who notwithstanding such doubts would risk themselves to obtain money for the City, at a time when it could be got by no other means, and when it was known the necessary accomodations for the Govt could not be prepared without it. I have the honor to be with great respect Sir

Yr most obed Servt

Ben Stoddert

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]